

Remarks

1. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-19, 21-24 and 26-28 are rejected as being obvious and as unpatentable over Livingston in view of Lobiondo.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. It is respectfully submitted that Livingston and Lobiondo, either singularly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest specifying a balanced media exit pattern that distributes media for the print job in a generally equal manner between different output destinations as claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 15. Since Livingston and Lobiondo fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of the independent claims, accordingly, it also fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of any of the dependent claims.

The Applicants agree with the Examiner that Livingston fails to disclose the central processing unit that specifies a balanced exit pattern to distribute media in a generally equal manner between different output destinations. The portion of Lobiondo referred to by the Examiner (col. 4, lines 16-25 and 30-34 discussed in July 26, 2005, Office Action, page 4) fails to add anything that would make distributing media in a generally equal manner between different output destinations, obvious to one skilled in the art. This is because Lobiondo uses a "printshop scheduler 50" to schedule parts of a large job to "a plurality of local and remote printers." Claim 1 claims "a balanced media exit pattern that distributes media for the print job in a generally equal manner between different output destinations" not input designations as described in Lobiondo.

2. Claims 5, 11, 20 and 25 are also rejected as being obvious and as unpatentable over Livingston in view of Lobiondo and in further view of Mastie and Farrell.


Claims 5, 11, 20 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Livingston in view of Lobiondo as applied to claims 1 and 15. The applicants repeat the arguments presented with respect to claims 1 and 15, and respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5, 11, 20 and 25 on this basis be withdrawn.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. It is respectfully submitted that Livingston and Mastie or Farrell, either singularly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest specifying a balanced media exit pattern that distributes media for the print job in a generally equal manner between different output destinations as claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 15. Since Livingston and Mastie or Farrell fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of the independent claims, accordingly, it also fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of any of the dependent claims.

Finally, with respect to the combination of Livingston in view of Lobiondo, Mastie, and Farrell in all rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that neither provides sufficient objective motivation, for one of ordinary skill in the relevant art, to modify Livingston in the manner attempted.

It is believed all claims are in condition for allowance, which is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.